

Application S/N 10/728,338
Amendment dated: May 27, 2005
Response to Office Action dated: March 31, 2005

CE11662JME

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A communication assembly comprising:

a communication device including at least one connector and an opening providing access to the at least one connector; and

a cover tethered to the communication device, at least a portion of the cover being flexible such that the cover is selectively movable between a first position, wherein at least a portion of the cover substantially closes the opening, and a second position, wherein substantially unimpeded access to the connector is permitted, wherein the cover is at least partially made of a flexible material,

whereby, in the first position, the connector is substantially protected from the infiltration of solid particles and the gross intrusion of liquids.
2. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the cover is held in the first position at least by engagement between at least a portion of the cover and at least portion of the communication device.
3. (original) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the engagement is an interference fit.
4. (original) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the engagement is between at least one projection provided on the cover and at least one cavity in the opening.

Application S/N 10/728,336
Amendment dated: May 27, 2005
Response to Office Action dated: March 31, 2005

CE11662JME

5. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein, in the second position, the cover is substantially prevented from moving back toward the first position.

6. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the communication device is a cellular telephone.

7. (currently amended) An accessory cover for a communications device comprising:

a flap; and

at least one attachment leg, each leg having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end of each leg being flexibly connected to the flap, the distal end of each leg being adapted for connection to the communication device, at least a portion of the attachment leg being bendable,

wherein the flap is movable between at least a first position and a second position, wherein the flap remains in the second position irrespective of the positioning of the accessory cover or the communication device.

8. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein, in the first position, the flap is disposed substantially 90 degrees relative to the attachment legs.

9. (previously presented) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein at least two of the at least one attachment legs are substantially parallel.

Application S/N 10/728,336
Amendment dated: May 27, 2005
Response to Office Action dated: March 31, 2005

CE11662JME

10. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the cover provides one of a tactile signal or an audible signal when the cover is moved between the first and second positions.

11. (currently amended) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the flap includes at least two notches, each of the notches receiving at least a portion of a respective attachment leg when the cover is moved.

12. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the at least one attachment leg includes two substantially parallel attachment legs.

13. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the flap is substantially flat.

14. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the flap is substantially rectangular.

15. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the distal end of the at least one attachment leg includes one or more slots, whereby the slots lockingly receive a corresponding protrusion on the communication device.

16. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7, wherein, in the second position, the flap is disposed substantially in the same plane relative to the attachment legs.

Application S/N 10/728,338
Amendment dated: May 27, 2005
Response to Office Action dated: March 31, 2005

CE11662JME

17. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the distal end of the at least one attachment leg includes one or more protrusions, whereby the one or more protrusions are lockingly received in a corresponding passage on the communication device.

18. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein at least one projection extends substantially transversely from the flap, the at least one projection shaped to interface with a connector.

19. (original) The accessory cover of claim 18 wherein the at least one projection is shaped to substantially surroundingly receive a connector.

20. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the flap includes at least one edge portion, the edge portion including at least one protrusion, wherein the at least one protrusion lockingly engages a portion of the communication device so as to retain the communication device in the first position.

21. (original) The accessory cover of claim 7 wherein the flap includes at least one notch, wherein the at least one notch lockingly engages a respective protrusion on the communication device so as to retain the communication device in the first position.

22. (currently amended) A method of accessing and protecting a connector on a communications device comprising the steps of:

Application S/N 10/728,336
Amendment dated: May 27, 2005
Response to Office Action dated: March 31, 2005

CE11662JME

providing a communication device including at least one connector, an opening providing access to the at least one connector, and a cover tethered to the communication device, at least a portion of the cover being is made of a flexible material such that the cover is selectively movable between at least a first locked position, wherein at least a portion of the cover engages at least a portion of the communication device so as to substantially close the opening, and a second locked position;

when the cover is in the first position, disengaging the cover from the communication device; and

moving the cover toward the second locked position until the cover locks in place; wherein the cover is substantially prevented from traveling toward the first position such that substantially unimpeded access to the connector is provided.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 further including the steps of:

providing an accessory connector adapted to be received within the communication device connector; and

operationally joining the accessory connector and the communication device connector.

24. (original) The method of claim 22 further including the step of:

when the cover is in the second position, moving the cover toward the first locked position until at least a portion of the cover engages at least a portion of the communication device, wherein the cover is substantially prevented from traveling toward the second position.